Dillera J

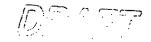
- 1. (Amended) A method for promoting survival of substantia nigra neuronal cells comprising contacting the cells with an amount of an antagonist of *ptc* sufficient to promote the survival of substantia nigra neuronal cells.
- 2. (Amended) A method for promoting survival of dopaminergic cells comprising contacting the cells with an amount of an antagonist of *ptc* sufficient to promote the survival of dopaminergic cells.
- 3. (Amended) A method for promoting survival of GABA-nergic cells comprising contacting the cells with an amount of an antagonist of *ptc* sufficient to promote the survival of GABA-nergic cells.
- 4. (Amended) A method for treating a disorder characterized by loss of dopaminergic and/or GABA-nergic neurons which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist of *ptc* sufficient to decrease the rate of neuron loss.
- 5. (Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of Parkinson's disease comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist of ptc.
- 6. (Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of Huntington's disease comprising administering to a patient in need therof a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist of *ptc*.
- 7. (Amended) The method of any of claims 1-6, wherein the antagonist of ptc binds to patched and mimics hedgehog-mediated patched signal transduction.
- 8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the antagonist of *ptc* is a small organic molecule.
- 9. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the binding of the antagonist of *ptc* to *patched* results in upregulation of *patched* and/or *gli* expression.



- 10. (Amended) The method of any of claims 1-6, wherein the antagonist of *ptc* is a small organic molecule which interacts with neuronal cells to mimic *hedgehog*-mediated *patched* signal transduction.
- 11. (Amended) The method of any of claims 1-6, wherein the antagonist of *ptc* mimics hedgehog-mediated patched signal transduction by altering the localization, protein-protein binding and/or enzymatic activity of an intracellular protein involved in a patched signaling pathway.
- 12. (Amended) The method of any of claims 1-6, wherein the antagonist of *ptc* alters the level of expression of a *hedgehog* protein, a *patched* protein or a protein involved in the intracellular signal transduction pathway of *patched*.
- 16. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the antagonist of *ptc* is a small organic molecule which binds to *patched* and regulates *patched*-dependent gene expression.
- 22. (Reiterated) The method of any of claims 4-6, wherein a patient is being treated prophylactically.

Please add the following new claims

- 49. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the antagonist of *ptc* is an inhibitor of Protein Kinase A.
- 50. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the antagonist of ptc is an inhibitor of Protein Kinase A signal transduction.
- 51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the inhibitor of Protein Kinase A signal transduction is cAMP or analogs thereof.



The amended claims are re-stated below to reflect changes with respect to the last filing.

- 1. (Amended) A method for promoting survival of substantia nigra neuronal cells comprising contacting the cells with [a trophic] an amount of an antagonist of ptc [therapeutic] sufficient to promote the survival of substantia nigra neuronal cells.
- 2. (Amended) A method for promoting survival of dopaminergic cells comprising contacting the cells with [a trophic] an amount of an antagonist of ptc [therapeutic]sufficient to promote the survival of dopaminergic cells.
- 3. (Amended) A method for promoting survival of GABA-nergic cells comprising contacting the cells with [a trophic] an amount of an antagonist of ptc [therapeutic]sufficient to promote the survival of GABA-nergic cells.
- 4. (Amended) A method for treating a disorder characterized by loss of dopaminergic and/or GABA-nergic neurons which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist of ptc [therapeutic]sufficient to decrease the rate of neuron loss.
- 5. (Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of [treating or preventing] Parkinson's disease comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist of ptc[therapeutic].
- 6. (Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of [treating or preventing] Huntington's disease comprising administering to a patient in need therof a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist of ptc[therapeutic].
- 7. (Amended) The method of any of claims 1-6, wherein the <u>antagonist of pic[therapeutic]</u> binds to patched and mimics hedgehog-mediated patched signal transduction.
- 8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the <u>antagonist of ptc</u> [therapeutic] is a small organic molecule.